

In an era when lots of people who grew up on rock are turning to country music because they want to hear something with melody, it's a mystery why the Canadian band **Blue Rodeo** has yet to crack this country, and more of one that their excellent latest album *Lost Together* (Atlantic) is hardly getting any air-play on this city's better radio stations. Soundwise, this group picked up where the Band left off, and though they don't quite have that group's funky intensity, they can deliver a mean rockers like "Restless." Songwriters Greg Keelor and Jim Cuddy skirted previously skirted around their Dylan influence, but now they let go with abandon on "Fools Like You" and "Willin' Fool." However, their forte is majestic ballads with knockout melodies and choruses you can't forget like "Already Gone" and "Last to Know." To say they back this up with outstanding musicianship and vocals that hit you in the gut is an understatement. There's a lot of hot shows happening Friday night, and if I wasn't playing myself, this is the one I'd make sure to catch. The **Sand Rubies** who used to be known as the Sidewinders open.

Blue Rodeo with the Sand Rubies: Fri., Feb. 19 at 9 p.m. at the Chestnut Cabaret, 38th and Chestnut Sts., 382-1201.

--Peter Brown